

NEWS and GOSSIP of WASHINGTON



Washington Embassies Center of Big Spy System

WASHINGTON.—That embassy circles in Washington are clearing houses through which military information, gathered for belligerent nations from all the larger cities in the United States, is transmitted to the capitals of the warring countries in Europe, was indicated in revelations that reached this city from New York.

The report received here tends to confirm rumors that have been afloat since the beginning of the war, that each of the warring nations maintains in the United States a secret information system through which representatives of the allies, assisted by a well-known detective agency, gather military secrets for transmission to the headquarters of the detective agency in New York city, which in turn transmits them to the embassies in Washington.

The revelations include a complete key to the code which is being used. Several dispatches have been intercepted and translated en route from branch offices throughout the country to New York city, whence they were to have been relayed to Washington.

National Parks Prepared for Tourist Travel Flood

SECRETARY FRANKLIN K. LANE is a believer in preparedness. The secretary of the department of the interior naturally leaves to his associates in the cabinet, Secretaries Garrison and Daniels, the study of preparedness related to war equipment. What he is interested in is the preparedness on the part of the government to handle properly the tremendous tourist travel in America, which is expected to be one of the results of the great war.

In the opinion of the interior department officials and others who are familiar with conditions in the national parks of the West these great natural show places have never been visited by as many American people as should have toured them, because there have not been the same kind of facilities to care for travelers which are found in Europe, where the tourist trade has been catered to for hundreds of years, and where in many places it is the chief source of income of the people.

Secretary Lane believes that many thousands of Americans will travel in this country during the coming season and following years who have heretofore spent their money in Europe, and that the national parks of the West and points in Alaska, with their scenic wonders, will be the places sought out by large numbers of American tourists. The work of reorganizing the system of caring for and developing the national parks is now going on, and in the near future it is believed that most of the American parks will have facilities which will rival Europe for completeness in providing for tourists.

Mark Daniels, the California landscape engineer, whom Secretary Lane secured as the general superintendent of the national parks, is now working on plans for reorganizing the system of management and bettering conditions generally in all of the great government reservations which are under the department of the interior.

Mace of Lower House Goes to the Repair Shop

THE mace, the historic symbol of authority in the lower branch of congress, is to be repaired before the next house meets. It has been sent to New York in the custody of a deputy sergeant-at-arms, who will be held strictly accountable for its safe return. The ancient bugbear of refractory members, which came down from medieval parliamentary bodies, is a long piece of silver mounted on ebony, at the business end of which is a silver globe. Surmounting the globe, with his talons firmly clutching the North pole, is an American eagle.

Whenever a member becomes unruly the sergeant-at-arms is supposed to stalk solemnly down the aisle and confront him with the mace. The bellicent is duly expected to become tongue-tied with confusion and expiate his display of temper by humbly asking the pardon of the house.

This courtly tradition received a violent setback, however, the last time the mace was used in response to a riot call. "Private John" Allen was on that occasion the center of the mix-up.

"Don't hit me with that dam fool bird," he said, when the mace was waved over him.

Another time a sergeant-at-arms charged down upon a struggling crowd of congressmen who were trying to terminate a long-drawn-out wrangle by assault and battery. When the bearer of the mace reached the scene he stood there like a schoolboy who had broken down in the midst of a recitation, wondering what was to come next.

"What do I do now?" he asked, in a stage whisper.

"Bang the buzzard on his head," advised a member, to whom the mace was no more than a slapstick. Ever since then the mace has been known as the "buzzard."

Uncle Sam Experimenting With Lights for War

TAKING a lesson from the European war, the secretary of war has directed the engineer corps to make an exhaustive study of and extensive field experiments with searchlights, flares, star bombs and other lights. For some time the army and navy have been using searchlights, and in the Russo-Japanese war they were employed by both armies, but not until the European conflict did they become such important auxiliaries of an army.

Searchlights and star bombs have become absolutely necessary to meet the constant night attacks by armies in the various theaters of war. Searchlights are not only used to detect the movements of the enemy, but to blind troops when they are charging across the zone of fire, and to discomfit the pilots of aeroplanes flying aloft. The engineer depot at Washington barracks, where the experiments are being conducted, has taken on the appearance of a fireworks factory. Not only is the engineer corps experimenting with every type of light producer that it has been able to obtain from foreign countries, but it is testing out quite a number of American inventions. That work will continue at Washington barracks until some time in October, when all of the searchlights and light-producing devices will be shipped to Texas, where a battalion of engineers will try them out in the field.

It is not proposed by the secretary of war to purchase a large quantity of searchlights and fireworks, but according to his instructions, the officers will develop types of searchlights and light-producing devices that can be produced by small changes in standard articles of this character that can be purchased in the open market. In the event of war the country would depend largely upon private concerns to furnish that class of equipment for the army.

INDIVIDUALITY OF COW

Many Dairymen Neglect to Keep Proper Records.

Sensible Way to Judge Animal's Performance is on Her Total Yield for the Season, Not by Any One Test or Weight.

It is still possible to find dairymen who never dig deeper than the surface knowledge of the whole herd giving so much milk, counting simply the total weight sent to the factory one day, or per month, or again simply the average yield per cow for the factory season.

A plain fact that cannot be impressed too strongly is that cows have individuality; people have personality. What makes two cows yield quite different weights of milk and fat when all conditions are practically equal? Even supposing a cow's interior economy were made visible and luminous, has any man the requisite knowledge to fathom all the mysteries of milk manufacture?

We do know this the yield of milk and its percentage of fat are apt to vary from day to day most strangely.



English Champion Angus Cow.

The first half of the milk drawn may not contain more than half as much fat as the latter half; the cow may have some slight sickness; some of her delicate nervous functions may be deranged temporarily; extremes of weather, undue exposure, excitement, may all influence the yield of milk and the test. Hence it is clear that the sensible way to judge a cow's performance is not by any one test or weight, but rather on her total yield for the season. A cold, matter-of-fact "average" does not give necessary information. Cows have individuality, which is worth studying so that they may repay their owners for intelligent handling.

DEPTH FOR COVERING SEEDS

Quarter or Half an Inch Is Quite Sufficient for Onions, Lima Beans and Like Plants.

Too much stress cannot be laid upon covering seed properly. We are very apt to cover too deeply. As a general rule the smaller the seed, the lighter should be the cover. Onions, squashes, parsnips and lima beans, or such plants that push up the shells of the seed itself, find it difficult to force their way through a very great depth of earth after it is packed down by rains. A quarter or half an inch at most is quite sufficient covering for these seeds. Care should be exercised to see that lumps of earth are not left over them.

When we plant beets, carrots, parsnips, etc., we always like to have long rows, and do not believe in wasting space in useless paths and walks, with short rows running crosswise. It is much easier to keep long rows clean, than short ones, and the labor in caring for long rows is much less than that needed for short ones.

SOME GOOD INCUBATOR AIDS

Eggs Should Be Warmed Before Putting into Machine to Keep Temperature at Right Degree.

To warm the eggs before putting them in the machine keeps the temperature even, and to place cold eggs into it lowers the temperature.

It is necessary to make use of the dampening tray if the weather is dry or if the place is dry where the incubator is kept.

On the other hand, if the machine is placed in a damp atmosphere, the dampening tray must not be filled.

If the chicken is too wet on leaving the shell, there has been an excess of moisture, and if the toughness of the membrane inside the shell prevents the chicken leaving easily, there has not been enough moisture.

Cheap Food for Pigs.

Pasture is one of the cheapest foods for young pigs and can be easily grown. Begin early in the spring by plowing deep, making a perfect seed bed, then drill to rye and cultivate with the harrow as soon as it is a few inches high. With the addition of a little grain, the pigs will do well on this all summer.

Give Only Pure Water.

Watch the water supply and see that the hens drink only pure water, and that they get plenty of it, also that they get it in clean vessels.

FIRST MEAL FOR THE CHICKS

Don't Feed Little Fellows Until They Are Forty Hours Old—Encourage Them to Scratch.

Chicks hatched with hens should be fed as incubator chicks until they are on range; i. e., first meal of bread squeezed out of sweet milk; first three weeks, rolled oats, bread crumbs and hard-boiled eggs, mixed shells and all; wheat boiled in milk, curds, or any other convenient food suitable for chicks. Feed on clean boards, and give green food. When on range, make sure that the chicks are getting a sufficient amount to eat. The cheapest way is to pen the hen, let the chicks run, and feed them outside the coop.

Chick feed is too expensive for hen feed. We do not like to give hard and fast rules about feeding chicks, lest we put in the ration something which is not at hand. Preparing a ration for chicks is like preparing a meal—a balanced meal that will promote growth and health may be prepared in any number of different combinations. The main thing is, don't feed before the chick is forty hours old. Don't leave food which will sour before them.

After they are trained to eat, scatter cracked grains or rolled oats in clover leaves, to coax them to scratch, and feed them in such a way that they are not robbed by the old hens. Mash feeds fatten quicker. Alternate cracked corn and ground mash for market birds after six weeks. Make breeding birds scratch for all they get. Milk is always good.

Egg shells sometimes become too hard to hatch easily. When such is the case, cover them with a flannel cloth wrung out of hot water, if they are in the incubator, beginning at the fifteenth day. If under the hen, dip them in warm water.

SELECTING SITE FOR GARDEN

If Possible Locate Vegetable Patch on Sloping Ground—Plow Soil Fully Six Inches Deep.

It is much better to have the fruit garden separate from the vegetable garden, if one is able to do so, if for no other reason than the trees and bushes are liable to be broken in cultivating among the garden crops.

Locate the vegetable garden, if possible, on sloping ground, fully exposed to the sun. A warm, wet sheltered location may be planted early in the spring. The early vegetables always bring the most money. For a small family, one-half acre, properly manured and cultivated, will furnish a full supply of vegetables.

Plant crops the full length of the garden; for horse cultivation the rows should be marked off three feet apart; for hand culture with garden plow, run the rows 15 to 20 feet apart.

Have the ground deeply plowed fully six inches deep. Plow as soon as the ground is dry enough to crum-



Products From Well-Planned Garden.

ble when forked over. Harrow and roll to get the ground mellowed the full depth it was plowed.

Spread a thick dressing of rolled manure over the ground and harrow it in. The finer the manure, and the better it is worked into the ground, the quicker it will act.

Drill the seeds in with a good animal-bone fertilizer; one handful to three feet of row will be at the rate of 400 pounds to the acre.

Plant Roots Early.

An ounce each of onion, salsify, carrot, parsnip, purple strap leaf and white egg turnip, long dark red and Crosby's Egyptian beet and one-half ounce each of two good kinds of cucumber seed will provide plenty of their kind if not planted too thickly. All of the root vegetables should be put in quite early, so that a good start may be had before hot weather.

Money From Dairying.

With good dairy cows you get the money quicker because you can sell the product every day. When the beef man sells his fat steers he has to take a good part of the money he gets to buy steers to put in their place.

THREE DAYS IN ONE

Seeming Impossibility Easily Shown as a Fact.

Irregularity of Date Line Accounts for the Paradox—Explanation Given by Scientist in the New York Sunday World.

Three days can exist at the same time! It sounds impossible, but it is nevertheless a fact that when it is very late Sunday night at Attu island it is Monday noon at London and Tuesday morning at Cape Deshnef, Siberia!

If one travels westward, one loses a day in going round the world; if one travels eastward, one gains a day, writes Hereward Carrington in the Sunday New York World Magazine. Could one travel at the rate of 15 degrees a day, one would lose exactly one hour each day. In twenty-four days the circuit would be complete.

Inasmuch as sun and earth are constantly revolving and day merging into night, Sunday passing into Monday, etc., it is obvious that at one point on the world's surface an arbitrary line must be set, to the east of which is one day, to the west of which is the



When it is Noon Monday in London, 6 A. M. Monday in Chicago and 6 P. M. Monday in Calcutta, it is Still Sunday at Attu Island and is Already Tuesday at Cape Deshnef.

next day. This immediate "jump" of a day regulates the calendar for one circumnavigating the globe. This "international date line," as it is called, passing north and south and dividing our world into two equal parts, is the 180th meridian and crosses the Pacific ocean—where fortunately there is very little land—taking a slight bulge outward to include Siberia, and one the other way to include Attu island, which belongs to Alaska geographically. The map will show this. West of this line is Monday and east of it is Sunday.

When it is noon Monday in London, Tuesday has already begun at Cape Deshnef, Siberia, but Monday morning has not yet dawned at Attu island; nearly half an hour of Sunday still remains there. We are thus confronted with the paradox of three days co-existing at the same time!

We must remember that every day begins at midnight. If we could travel round the world at the same rate that it travels, beginning our flight at noon, it would be perpetually noon all the way round! Yet we should lose a day.

While at any particular point on the surface of the earth a day is twenty-four hours long, every day, as a matter of fact, lasts forty-eight hours—sometimes even longer. This seems another contradiction. Yet it can be explained. Any given day, say Christmas, begins (as that day) immediately west of the 180th parallel. One hour later Christmas day begins 15 degrees west of the date line, two hours later 30 degrees west of the line, and so on round the globe. Those living just west of the date line would have enjoyed twelve hours of Christmas when it reached England, eighteen hours when it began in the United States and twenty-four hours (a whole day) when it began in Alaska. Already Christmas had existed twenty-four hours on this globe, but having just begun in Western Alaska, it will last there twenty-four hours longer.

We have just seen that each day lasts for forty-eight hours. As a matter of fact, a day lasts in some places more than forty-nine hours. This is because of the irregularity of the date line previously mentioned. Let us begin an imaginary journey from Cape Deshnef, Siberia, at midnight. As midnight sweeps westward successive places see the beginning of the day. When the day begins in London it has been that same day at Cape Deshnef twelve hours and forty-five minutes. When this same day arrives at Attu island it has been twenty-five hours and twelve minutes since it began officially at Cape Deshnef. Since the day will then last twenty-four hours at Attu island, before it is spent forty-nine hours and twelve minutes will have elapsed from the beginning of that day until the time it closes. Thus three days can exist at one time, as before explained.

Duse Refuses to Help.

The New York World's correspondent at Rome writes to that paper that Eleonora Duse, "who sits in a corner and feels lonely while women of her age are making huge successes on the stage," refused to take part in charity performances in aid of earthquake sufferers.

"Why should I exhibit my voice, tired with emotion, and my face, lined with care, to well-dressed women in stalls and boxes?" she asked. "Let them give the price of their beautiful jewels and gowns for the poor."

And she wrote to the earthquake committee to that effect, too.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF

Vincennes.—The bonds of sixteen young farmers who were caught in a raid on a resort were forfeited on their failure to appear. The men said when the bonds were given they would rather work all summer in the hot fields in order to repay their bondsmen than to remain in jail ten days, which is the penalty for violating a resort.

South Bend.—W. E. Cady and Dudley M. Shively of South Bend, state manager and state auditor, respectively, of the Woodman circle, were inducted for continuance in office at the closing session of the Indiana circle here. The new state officers were installed, the ceremony being in the charge of Mrs. Emma B. Manchester of Omaha, Neb., supreme guardian of the order.

Bedford.—Cham F. Crawford, of Mitchell was found in the basement of his house violently insane, it is said. His suit for damages against the Lehigh Portland Cement company for injuries in the cement company's quarry was set for trial in the circuit court here. It is alleged that his insanity was caused by being struck on the head by a heavy stone and worrying over his lawsuit and his condition generally.

South Bend.—The body of James Cummings, forty-three years old, was found in one of the city's water reservoirs. The body was in an upright position and was discovered by a small boy, who saw the top of the head while fishing nearby. It is presumed that Cummings rolled into the reservoir while sleeping after a "sneeze." A quart bottle of whiskey was in his pocket.

Crawfordsville.—Lilly Wells, the fourteen-year-old girl who two weeks ago signed an affidavit charging her father, John Wells, with a statutory offense against her and later denied the truth of the charge, was thwarted in an effort to commit suicide when the police knocked a bottle of carbolic acid from her hands. She was placed in jail and a charge of perjury was lodged against her. Her father is still in jail, awaiting a hearing.

Frankfort.—Rev. William E. Fertich, age sixty-eight, pastor of the Methodist church of Romney, Tippecanoe county, fell dead at the conclusion of his address at the meeting of the ministers of the Crawfordsville district of the Methodist denomination in the Methodist church here. Rev. Mr. Fertich was a veteran of the Civil war. He was superintendent of public schools for thirty-four years at Mishawaka, Shelbyville, Covington, Bloomington, Brazil, Larned, Kan., and Eldora, Kan. He is survived by the widow and four daughters.

South Bend.—The annual convention of the Woodmen Circle of Indiana opened here with 300 delegates, representing 3,310 members of the order in the state. Mrs. Emma B. Manchester of Omaha, Neb., supreme guardian, and Mrs. Hadassah Johnson of Columbus, O., supreme manager, are attending the sessions. Mrs. Lizzie Philon of Mishawaka, grand guardian, is presiding. The address of welcome was delivered by Mayor Fred W. Keller. Dr. C. S. Rosenberry answered for the women. A military ball was a feature.

Columbus.—Officials of the Bartholomew County Fishing and Hunting club have been notified by B. W. Downing, superintendent of a government fish hatchery at Put-in-Bay, O., that 2,000,000 pike perch eggs will be sent here between May 1 and 5. He asks the club officers to be ready to take charge of the consignment when it arrives. White river is lower at this point than it ever has been at this time of year, old residents declare. The stream is almost as low as it was in the late summer of 1914. The water is so clear fishermen say the fish "see them first," and as a result only few are being caught.

Lafayette.—G. M. Mourer, 731 Fletcher avenue, Indianapolis, a brakeman on the Big Four railroad, was killed when he was struck by an east-bound freight train at the river road bridge, half a mile west of this city. Mourer was head brakeman on the west-bound Big Four freight train, No. 6. Just west of this city there is a steep grade and his train was being pushed up the line by an engine. Mourer was standing on the east-bound track watching the train as it passed by to see if there were any defects in the wheels or air couplings. He did not hear the fast train, No. 98, approaching. The pilot of the engine struck him and knocked him to the roadway, twenty-five feet below. His skull was fractured and one leg broken. Mourer was hurried to St. Elizabeth's hospital and died soon after reaching that institution. He was twenty-eight years old and had worked for the Big Four for four years. He was not married. The railroad authorities are seeking his relatives.

Sullivan.—W. L. Bryan, president of Indiana university, delivered a lecture to about three hundred persons at the closing session of the Indiana presbytery on "The Effect of the Spirit on the Man." Rev. Thomas R. White, student pastor of Indiana university, also spoke. The next meeting place of the presbytery will be in six months at Mount Vernon. In the morning F. W. Grossman, state superintendent of Sunday school work, addressed the students of the Sullivan High school. His subject was "Habits, How They Influence the Formation of Character."